



## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### 14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA-2023-0070; Airspace Docket No. 23-ASO-01]

RIN 2120-AA66

#### Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Beaufort, SC

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This action amends Class D airspace, Class E surface airspace, and Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station (MCAF)/ Merritt Field, Beaufort, SC, by updating the airport's geographic coordinates. This action also updates the name of Beaufort Executive Airport (formerly Beaufort Count Airport) and removes unnecessary verbiage from the Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface. In addition, this action makes the editorial changes replacing the term Notice to Airmen with Notice to Air Missions and replacing the term Airport/Facility Directory with Chart Supplement. This action does not change the airspace boundaries or operating requirements.

**DATES:** Effective 0901 UTC, August 10, 2023. The Director of the Federal Register approves this incorporation by reference action under 1 CFR part 51, subject to the annual revision of FAA Order JO 7400.11 and publication of conforming amendments.

**ADDRESSES:** FAA Order JO 7400.11G, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, and subsequent amendments online at [www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/publications/](https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/). For further information, contact the Airspace Policy Group, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591; telephone: (202) 267-8783.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** John Fornito,

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1701 Columbia Avenue, College Park, GA 30337; Telephone: (404) 305-6364.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **Authority for this Rulemaking**

The FAA's authority to issue rules regarding aviation safety is found in Title 49 of the United States Code. Subtitle I, Section 106 describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII, Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the agency's authority. This rulemaking is promulgated under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart I, Section 40103. Under that section, the FAA is charged with prescribing regulations to assign the use of airspace necessary to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficient use of airspace. This regulation is within the scope of that authority, as it updates airspace descriptions. This update is an administrative change and does not change the airspace boundaries or operating requirements. **Incorporation by Reference**

Class D and Class E airspace are published in paragraphs 5000, 6002, and 6005 of FAA Order JO 7400.11, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 on an annual basis. This document amends the current version of that order, FAA Order JO 7400.11G, dated August 19, 2022, and effective September 15, 2022. FAA Order JO 7400.11G is publicly available as listed in the ADDRESSES section of this document. These amendments will be published in the next update to FAA Order JO 7400.11. FAA Order JO 7400.11G lists Class A, B, C, D, and E airspace areas, air traffic service routes, and reporting points.

### **The Rule**

This amendment to 14 CFR part 71 amends the Class D airspace, Class E surface airspace, and Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface at Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station (MCAF)/ Merritt Field, Beaufort, SC, by

updating the airport's geographic coordinates. This action also updates the name of Beaufort Executive Airport (formerly Beaufort County Airport). It removes unnecessary verbiage, referring to Hilton Head Island, from the Class E airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface, as it is unnecessary. In addition, this action makes the editorial changes replacing the term Notice to Airmen with Notice to Air Missions and replacing the term Airport/Facility Directory with Chart Supplement. This action is an administrative change and does not affect the airspace boundaries or operating requirements; therefore, notice and public procedure under 5 U.S.C. 553(b) is unnecessary.

### **Regulatory Notices and Analyses**

The FAA has determined that this regulation only involves an established body of technical regulations for which frequent and routine amendments are necessary to keep them operationally current. It, therefore: (1) is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a "significant rule" under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034; February 26, 1979); and (3) does not warrant preparation of a Regulatory Evaluation as the anticipated impact is so minimal. Since this is a routine matter that will only affect air traffic procedures and air navigation, it is certified that this proposed rule, when promulgated, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

### **Environmental Review**

The FAA has determined that this action qualifies for categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act in accordance with FAA Order 1050.1F, "Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures," paragraph 5-6.5. a. This airspace action is not expected to cause any potentially significant environmental impacts, and

no extraordinary circumstances exist that warrant preparation of an environmental assessment.

## **Lists of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 71**

Airspace, Incorporation by reference, Navigation (air).

## **The Amendment**

In consideration of the foregoing, the Federal Aviation Administration amends 14 CFR part 71 as follows:

### **PART 71 – DESIGNATION OF CLASS A, B, C, D, AND E AIRSPACE AREAS; AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE ROUTES; AND REPORTING POINTS**

1. The authority citation for 14 CFR part 71 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 106(f), 106(g); 40103, 40113, 40120; E.O. 10854, 24 FR 9565, 3 CFR, 1959-1963 Comp., p. 389.

#### **§ 71.1 [Amended]**

2. The incorporation by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 of Federal Aviation Administration Order JO 7400.11G, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 19, 2022, and effective September 15, 2022, is amended as follows:

Paragraph 5000. Class D Airspace

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#### **ASO SC D Beaufort, SC [Amended]**

Beaufort MCAS/Merritt Field, SC

(lat. 32°28'50"N, long. 80°43'09"W)

Beaufort Executive Airport

(lat. 32°24'44"N, long. 80°38'04"W)

That airspace extending upward from the surface to and including 2,500 feet MSL within a 5.6-mile radius of Beaufort MCAS/Merritt Field, excluding that airspace within a 1-mile radius of the Beaufort Executive Airport. This Class D airspace area is effective during the specific dates and times established in advance by a Notice to Air Missions. The effective date and time will thereafter be continuously published in the Chart Supplement.

Paragraph 6002. Class E Surface Airspace.

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**ASO SC E2 Beaufort, SC [Amended]**

Beaufort MCAS/Merritt Field, SC

(lat. 32°28'50"N., long. 80°43'09"W.)

Beaufort Executive Airport

(lat. 32°24'44"N., long. 80°38'04"W.)

That airspace extending upward from the surface within a 5.6-mile radius of Beaufort MCAS/Merritt Field, excluding that airspace within a 1-mile radius of the Beaufort Executive Airport. This Class E airspace area is effective during the specific dates and times established in advance by a Notice to Air Missions. The effective date and time will thereafter be continuously published in the Chart Supplement.

Paragraph 6005. Class E Airspace Areas Extending Upward from 700 feet or More Above the Surface of the Earth.

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**ASO SC E5 Beaufort, SC [Amended]**

Beaufort MCAS/Merritt Field, SC

(lat. 32°28'50"N., long. 80°43'09"W.)

Beaufort Executive Airport

(lat. 32°24'44"N., long. 80°38'04"W.)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within a 7-mile radius of Beaufort MCAS/Merritt Field and a 6.5-mile radius of Beaufort Executive Airport.

Issued in College Park, Georgia, on May 2, 2023

**LISA E. BURROWS, Manager**  
**Airspace & Procedures Team North,**  
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